

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to ~~claim 1,~~claim 6, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ when ~~said~~the fuel-cut is prohibited, ~~said~~the engine operates such that the torque of ~~the~~an output shaft of ~~said~~the engine becomes 0.
3. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to ~~claim 1,~~claim 6, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ when ~~said~~the fuel-cut is prohibited, a down-shift of an automatic transmission elevates ~~the~~ engine speed.
4. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to ~~claim 1,~~claim 6, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ when ~~said~~the fuel-cut is prohibited, a second motor-generator connected with ~~the~~an output shaft of the engine is operated as a motor to elevate ~~the~~ engine speed.
5. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~said~~
wherein the second motor-generator uses the electrical energy stored in ~~said~~the electricity accumulator.
6. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 1,~~ ~~characterized in that,~~
wherein
when a temperature of the catalytic apparatus arranged in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature in a vehicle deceleration, a fuel-cut of the

engine is prohibited and a first motor-generator connected with a vehicle drive shaft is operated as a generator that charges an electricity accumulator, and
_____ when an amount of charge in saidthe electricity accumulator reaches a predetermined value, the operation of saidthe first motor-generator, as a generator, is stopped and a fuel-cut starts in saidthe engine.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 1, characterized in that,~~
wherein

_____ when a temperature of the catalytic apparatus arranged in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature in a vehicle deceleration, a fuel-cut of the engine is prohibited and a first motor-generator connected with a vehicle drive shaft is operated as a generator that charges an electricity accumulator, and
_____ when an amount of charge in saidthe electricity ~~electrical~~ accumulator reaches a predetermined value, the operation of saidthe first motor-generator as the generator is stopped and saidthe engine operates in a condition in which an amount of intake air is minimized but such that saidthe engine is not stopped.

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine ~~according to claim 2, characterized in that,~~
wherein

_____ when a temperature of the catalytic apparatus arranged in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature in a vehicle deceleration, a fuel-cut of the engine is prohibited and a first motor-generator connected with a vehicle drive shaft is operated as a generator that charges an electricity accumulator,

when the fuel-cut is prohibited, the engine operates such that the torque of the output shaft of the engine becomes 0, and

when an amount of charge in ~~said~~the electricity ~~electrical~~-accumulator reaches a predetermined value, the operation of ~~said~~the first motor-generator as the generator is stopped and ~~said~~the engine operates in a condition in which the torque of the output shaft of the engine is lower than 0.

15-16. (Canceled)